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Oman and US Sign FTA

On 19 January, Oman became the fifth Middle Eastern country to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) with the US. The agreement must still be approved by legislators in Oman and the US Congress, which US Trade Representative Rob Portman expects to happen early this year. On the first day it is in force, 100 percent of consumer and industrial goods and 87 percent of agricultural tariff lines will be duty free.

U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman said, "The FTA with Oman builds on our existing agreements with Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Bahrain. We are also negotiating an FTA with the United Arab Emirates and have signed eight Trade and Investment Framework Agreements (TIFA) with Middle East Nations."

The US has been actively pushing for trade liberalizing deals in an effort to establish a Middle East Free Trade Area (MEFTA). MEFTA proposes bringing 23 Middle Eastern countries, including Israel, into a trade pact with the US by 2013. Formal discussions with Egypt are expected to begin this year.

USTR Portman said the U.S. is working with South Korea, the seventh largest U.S. trading partner, to resolve a number of bilateral trade issues to lay the groundwork for FTA negotiations. An FTA with South Korea would be the largest for the U.S. since the North American Free Trade (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico.

Source: Office of the United States Trade Representative Press Releases, BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest www.ictsd.org

Belarus

The Ministry of Agriculture and Provisions has banned poultry product imports from 20 countries due to concerns about avian influenza, most recently adding Turkey and Romania to the list on banned countries.

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Production in metric tons						
Chicken Meat	76,100	85,200	84,700	87,200	100,600	100,000
Hen Eggs	182,300	174,000	162,500	156,419	163,870	178,080
Exports in metric tons						
Chicken Meat	6,000	6,825	7,438	15,580	12,819	
Hen Eggs	36,975	38,766	30,803	29,813	31,196	
Liquid egg	0	8	109	186	235	
Dried egg	524	567	411	265	182	
Imports in metric tons						
Chicken Meat	18,000	7,772	7,935	11,444	11,696	
Hen Eggs	113	185	114	342	66	
Liquid egg	6	6	0	72	35	
Dried egg	80	282	232	276	249	

Source: FAO, news wires

Italy's Measures for Avian Influenza Recovery

The EU Commission is likely to initiate a formal procedure against the Government of Italy for having introduced mandatory country-of-origin labeling on poultry meat and other market measures that conflict with EU internal market competition rules.

Italy cited food safety concerns when it passed an ordinance to establish mandatory country-of-origin-labeling (COOL) for all poultry meat products produced in Italy and imported from EU and non-EU countries for direct consumption and further processing. The EU Commission observed the Italian measures breached article 28 of the Treaty establishing the European Union as the labeling would pose extra burdens on products imported from other member states, therefore being equivalent to a quantitative restriction. Italy could leave COOL as voluntary or propose mandatory COOL at EU level.

Italy's Parliament converted an October 1, 2005 emergency Legal Decree into law on November 30, 2005 (Law 244/2005) which allows the Government of Italy to use a budget of 20 million euros (about 24 million dollars) to withdraw poultry meat from the domestic market, to allow a discount to affected farms on social security payments and other payments due the Government for a cumulative amount of 10 million euros, and to use up to 20 million euros of a public disaster reserve to finance industry recovery. Under EU's Common Market Organization for poultry meat, market withdrawals are not allowed. Italy's plan for market withdrawal is currently unfunded.

Source: USDA/FAS, news wires

Poultry Meat Prices, US\$ per metric ton

	USA 1/	BRAZIL 2/	JAPAN 3/
2001	646	1,035	1,599
2002	582	850	1,710
2003	612	888	1,631
2004	757	1,033	2,020
2005 (Avg)	846	1,177	2,042
2005 Jan	725	1,027	1,955
Feb	707	1,039	1,914
Mar	720	1,080	1,920
Apr	754	1,116	1,940
May	795	1,145	1,960
Jun	863	1,213	2,014
Jul	908	1,220	2,045
Aug	899	1,273	2,116
Sep	971	1,300	2,194
Oct	993	1,354	2,202
Nov	968		2,203

1/ USA: Broiler cuts, export unit value

2/ Brazil: Export unit value for chicken, fob

3/ Japan: Broiler import price, cif, frozen other than leg quarters

Source: Food and Agricultural Organization

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending January 21, 2006		Year-To-Date	
TYPE	2006	2005 1/	2006 2/
Liquid	310	157	571
Frozen	40	0	40
Dried	0	0	0
Total	350	157	611

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending January 21, 2006		Year-To-Date	
TYPE	2006	2005 1/	2006 2/
Liquid	40	245	112
Frozen	93	52	95
Dried	0	40	0
Total	133	337	207

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending January 21, 2006		Year-To-Date	
TYPE	2006	2005 1/	2006 2/
Jumbo	0	0	0
Extra Large	810	0	1,980
Large	1,020	6,120	2,520
Medium	90	600	180
Ungraded	0	0	900
Misc	0	0	0
Total	1,920	6,720	5,580

1/ Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes revisions to previous week(s).

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch.

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending January 14, 2006		Year-To-Date	
TYPE	2006	2005 1/	2006 2/
Liquid	157	206	261
Frozen	0	0	0
Dried	0	0	0
Total	157	206	261

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending January 14, 2006		Year-To-Date	
TYPE	2006	2005 1/	2006 2/
Liquid	30	174	72
Frozen	2	0	2
Dried	0	40	0
Total	32	214	74

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending January 14, 2006		Year-To-Date	
TYPE	2006	2005 1/	2006 2/
Jumbo	0	0	0
Extra Large	450	1,680	1,170
Large	1,500	6,417	1,500
Medium	90	600	90
Ungraded	0	0	900
Misc	0	0	0
Total	2,040	8,697	3,660

1/ Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes revisions to previous week(s).

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch.

U.S./Canadian Live Poultry Slaughtered Under Inspection

W/E 21-Jan-06 (PRELIMINARY)

U.S. Fowl Slaughtered Domestically

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
-----Thousands-----			
Head	1,498	1,410	2,908
Last Week	1,487	1,349	2,836
Same week yr ago	1,451	1,205	2,656
To-date/2006	4,260	4,159	8,419
To-date/2005	4,547	3,907	8,454

U.S. Fowl Slaughtered in Canada

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
-----Thousands-----			
Head	256	0	256
Last Week	308	3	311
Same week yr ago	359	0	359
To-date/2006	680	3	683
To-date/2005	1,088	0	1,088

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Total U.S. Fowl slaughtered in the U.S. and Canada

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
-----Thousands-----			
Head	1,754	1,410	3,164
Last Week	1,795	1,352	3,147
Same week yr ago	1,810	1,205	3,015
To-date/2006	4,940	4,162	9,102
To-date/2005	5,635	3,907	9,542

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch

U.S./Canadian Live Poultry Slaughtered Under Inspection

W/E 14-Jan-06 (PRELIMINARY)

U.S. Fowl Slaughtered Domestically

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
-----Thousands-----			
Head	1,487	1,349	2,836
Last Week	1,275	1,400	2,675
Same week yr ago	1,625	1,219	2,844
To-date/2006	2,762	2,749	5,511
To-date/2005	3,096	2,702	5,798

U.S. Fowl Slaughtered in Canada

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
-----Thousands-----			
Head	308	3	311
Last Week	116	0	116
Same week yr ago	428	0	428
To-date/2006	424	3	427
To-date/2005	729	0	729

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Total U.S. Fowl slaughtered in the U.S. and Canada

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
-----Thousands-----			
Head	1,795	1,352	3,147
Last Week	1,391	1,400	2,791
Same week yr ago	2,053	1,219	3,272
To-date/2006	3,186	2,752	5,938
To-date/2005	3,825	2,702	6,527

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch

CENTRAL REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

Jan 27, 2006

CHICKEN WITH SKIN ADDED

FAT CONTENT	--- PRICES ---		---- VOLUME ----	
	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	19.00	61,200	-
WTD AVERAGE		19.00		
15-20%				
RANGE	21.00	12.00-18.00	1,040,400	-
WTD AVERAGE	21.00	13.91		

20% OR MORE

RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

* INCLUDES THE STATES of AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

EASTERN REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE EASTERN REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

Jan 27, 2006

CHICKEN WITH SKIN ADDED

FAT CONTENT	--- PRICES ---		---- VOLUME ----	
	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	19.00	17.00-18.00	322,000	-
WTD AVERAGE	19.00	17.86		
15-20%				
RANGE	17.00-21.00	14.00-18.00	1,972,000	1,092,000
WTD AVERAGE	19.20	16.14		

20% OR MORE

RANGE	-	14.00	120,000	-
WTD AVERAGE		14.00		

* INCLUDES THE STATES of CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS AND BULK MEAT, INCLUDING BULK MEAT and FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS AS OF 27 JANUARY 2006.

The market tone on tom breast meat, destrapped tenderloins and breast trim was steady to instances weak; scapula and wing meat with skin steady. Demand light to moderate. Offerings of wing meat with skin and scapula light to adequate, balance of white meat adequate to ample. The market tone on 4-8 lb. breasts steady to instances weak. Demand light to instances moderate with some noting improved activity. Offerings in a full range, mostly adequate to fully adequate. The market tone on institutional breasts was mostly steady. Demand light. Offerings short to fully adequate, mostly adequate with supplies not as tight as previous weeks. Trading moderate on Grade A 4-8 lb. breasts, light to moderate on tom breast meat, balance slow. For domestic: fresh wing meat with skin 75, fresh scapula 113-115 mostly 113, Grade A basted 8-10 lb. breasts 135 and 12-16 lb. breasts 160 cents delivered. For export (fresh): -20% mechanically separated turkey 21, tom drums 38-39, thigh meat 95 cents delivered.

EXPORT TRADING	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006						
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	41.00		41.00	104	40.37	402
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		R	20.00	52	20.53	60
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS		W	34.00	15	34.00	15
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	21.00	104		
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		R	88.00	52	93.08	471

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006

EXPORT TRADING	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOL. (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	38.50-41.00		39.97	184
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS	20.00		20.00	52
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS		W	34.00	15
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	21.00	104
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	88.00		88.00	52

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006

EXPORT TRADING	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOL. (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		M	40.50	104
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	22.00	104
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	21.00	104
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		M	93.58	404

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006

EXPORT TRADING	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOL. (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	40.00		40.00	10
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS	24.00		24.00	8
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS	34.00		34.00	15
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	21.00	104
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	97.00		97.00	15

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2006

EXPORT TRADING	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOL. (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	40.50		40.50	104
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	22.00	104
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	21.00	104
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	92.00-102.00		93.58	404

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY

2/ Product contains 15-20% fat with skin added.